

In, Pd, Bi and [and/or their] alloys thereof, wherein [characterized in that to reduce the internal resistance of the future battery,] electrically conductive particles are embedded in dispersed form in the electroplated coating [, for example, elemental carbon in the form of fine carbon, graphite or carbon black or, for example, titanium disulfide, tantalum disulfide or molybdenum silicide or mixtures thereof].

A1 2. (amended) The battery [Battery] sheath according to Claim 17 wherein [1 characterized in that the carbon content of] the electroplated coating contains at least [is] 0.7% elemental carbon [to 15%].

3. (amended) The battery [Battery] sheath according to Claim 1 wherein [or Claim 2 characterized in that the thickness of] the electroplated coating has a thickness of at least [is] 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  [to 8  $\mu\text{m}$  on one or on both sides].

4. (amended) A process [Process] for manufacturing strip stock for battery sheaths in which 0.1 to 1 mm thick cold-rolled sheet metal is provided on at least one side with a coating selected from a group consisting of Ni, Co, Fe, Sn, In, Pd, Bi and [and/or their] alloys thereof, in an electroplating bath, whereby the electroplating bath comprises as an additional component electrically conductive particles such that the particles are [as, for example, elemental carbon as fine carbon, graphite or carbon black or, for example, titanium disulfide, tantalum disulfide or molybdenum silicide, whereby this/these component(s) is/are] deposited on the sheet metal [base material] during electroplating together with the coating [Ni, Co, Fe, Sn, In, Pd, Bi or their alloys].

5. (amended) The process [Process] according to Claim 20 wherein [4 characterized in that] the sheet metal is coated [side] with the electroplating coating provided with the electrically conductive particles on the side that [components] faces inwardly when the sheet metal is formed into a battery sheath.

6. (amended) The process [Process] according to Claim 20 wherein [3 or Claim 4 characterized in that] the carbon is suspended in the electroplating bath as finely distributed carbon, graphite, or carbon black particles.
7. (amended) The process [Process] according to Claim 6 characterized by a particle size of the carbon, graphite, or carbon black particles of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .
8. (amended) The process [A procedure] according to claim 4 wherein [one of claims 4 to 6 characterized in that] a steady flow is created in the plating electrolyte tank during the plating process.
9. (amended) The process [Process] according to Claim 8 characterized in that the steady [uniform] flow is produced by mechanical agitation, circulation, or flooding.
10. (amended) The process [Process] according to Claim 8 [or Claim 9] characterized by a forced flow velocity of the electrolyte of 6 to 10 m/s.
11. (amended) The process [Process] according to claim 8 [one of Claims 8 to 10] characterized in that the electroplating bath contains suspension stabilizing and/or coagulation reducing substances.
12. (amended) The process of claim 4 wherein [A procedure according to one of claims 4 to 11 characterized in that] the plating electrolyte contains substances that produce hard, brittle layers (the so-called brighteners).
13. (amended) The process of claim 4 wherein [A procedure according to one of claims 4 to 12 characterized in that] the plating electrolyte contains brighteners or pore-sealing substances.
14. (amended) The process of claim 20 wherein [A procedure according to one of claims 4 to 13 characterized in that] the electrolytic deposition occurs in several stages, and [that, in at

least one of these stages,] the electrolyte contains elemental [elementary] carbon in at least one said stage.

15. (amended) The process of [Process according to] Claim 14 wherein [characterized in that] the material is heat-treated or annealed between electroplating treatment stages.

16. (amended) The process of claim 14 wherein [Process according to Claim 14 characterized in that] the material is heat-treated, particularly annealed, at the end of the electroplating treatment stages.

Please add the following new claims:

17. (new) The battery sheath of claim 1 wherein the electrically conductive particles are selected from a group consisting of: titanium disulfide, tantalum disulfide, molybdenum silicide, elemental carbon in the form of fine carbon, graphite or carbon black, and combinations thereof.

18. (new) The battery sheath according to Claim 2 wherein the electroplated coating contains no more than 15% elemental carbon.

19. (new) The battery sheath according to Claim 3 wherein the electroplated coating has a thickness of no more than 8  $\mu\text{m}$ .

20. (new) The process of claim 4 wherein the electrically conductive particles are selected from a group consisting of: titanium disulfide, tantalum disulfide, molybdenum silicide, elemental carbon in the form of fine carbon, graphite or carbon black, and combinations thereof.

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